

2-2-2026 (Monday of the week submitted)



Extension - Martin County

By Dena M. Held

County Extension Director & Extension Educator – 4-H Youth Development

Martin County

Text | 812-653-2089

Voice | 812-295-2412

E-mail | heldd@purdue.edu

Purdue University, Indiana Counties and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating
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The Purdue Extension Martin County weekly column is provided to help all learn about programs & opportunities. We highlight events from Purdue University & Extension where we hope you will choose to be part of Extension.... where there is Opportunity4All!



MARTIN COUNTY 4-H FAIR 2026

4-H ONLY Related Schedule of Activities

Fair activities to be added/schedule subject to change * Updated 1-8-2026 *

Check back often for any updates and as always, be sure 4-H enrollments are completed at v2.4honline.com!

Monday, April 20 to Friday, April 24

SWINE

Swine 4-H tags will be available during condensed office hours (8:30 AM – 3:30 PM) or other hours as scheduled and by pre-arrangement by texting 812-653-2089 or calling 812-295-2412.

Before swine tags are issued, families will need to provide the following information for each animal:

- Exhibitor's name
- Breed
- Sex
- Ear notches
- Tattoo (if applicable)
- All other tags already applied *This ensures compliance with BOAH requirements and that the correct 4-H tags are issued for each animal.

All swine tags must be applied by May 15th. Animals will NOT be allowed to check in at the 4-H Fair check-in without tags applied. A worksheet (optional but helpful) is available to help families gather this information in advance: https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/_docs/projects/swine/swine-id-worksheet.pdf

Friday, April 24

TAGGING ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

If you are unsure if your 4-H animal needs to report to Livestock Tagging Day, contact 4-H Educator Dena Held prior to tagging day. Special accommodations, such as not attending tagging day, must be requested by Friday, April 24th by contacting 4-H Educator Dena Held.

Friday, May 1

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Martin County 4-H Livestock Tagging

Martin County 4-H Livestock Tagging Information for County & Indiana State Fair as applicable

Swine do **NOT** report to the in-person tagging day.

*If you are unsure if your animal needs to report to Livestock Tagging Day, contact 4-H Educator Dena Held prior to tagging day. Special accommodations must be requested by Friday, April 24th by contacting 4-H Educator Dena Held.

Animal Identification details are available at:

https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/_docs/exhibits/animal-identification/animal-id-requirements.pdf

This table lists the different animal species and the respective form of identification that is required for a 4-H member to be eligible to show in 4-H livestock shows. The animal ID information must be entered in the Indiana 4-H Online enrollment system by the respective deadlines. Missing, incomplete or incorrect animal ID information could result in ineligibility for that particular animal.

Important Reminders:

- New 4-H livestock tags will NOT be distributed after May 1, 2026. Special accommodations, such as tagging day conflicts, must be requested by Friday, April 24th by contacting 4-H Educator Dena Held.
- Swine do **NOT** report to the in-person tagging day.
- Tags are to be applied by May 15th.
- No animals will be allowed to check in at the 4-H Fair livestock check-in without tags applied.
- Swine tag pick-up options shared again:

-During tagging time on Friday, May 1 from 6:00–7:30 PM

-Or prior, Monday, April 20 through Friday, April 24 during office hours (8:30 AM – 3:30 PM)

Thursday, May 7

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

4-H Poultry Bleed for Martin County 4-H Poultry

The poultry bleed is for Martin County 4-H members needing poultry blood tests either hatched on a local farm without an NPIP number OR for birds coming from an NPIP certified flock over a year ago.

To show at the 4-H Fair, 4-H members must by law have one of the following two ways of proving their birds are disease free (waterfowl are exempt) and provide the full completed Indiana Poultry Exhibitor form.

1. Birds originated directly from a National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) certified clean flock within one year.
2. Birds have had a Pullorum-Typhoid test with negative results within ninety (90) days prior to the exhibition/fair.

If you miss the May 7th poultry bleed, blood testing is available by contacting the Purdue Heeke Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab, 11367 E. Purdue Farm Road, Dubois, IN 47527. The lab is located north of

Patoka Lake Dam at the Purdue SIPAC Farm. You will need to call ahead to ensure that staff are available and details. Take the required form mentioned above along for tester signature.

6:30 pm – 7:00 pm

4-H Rabbit Tattooing for Martin County 4-H Rabbits

Friday, May 15

- Animal Identification & Exhibition 4honline identification *Animals must be fully identified in v2.4honline.com according to the Purdue Extension 4-H Animal Identification Chart: https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/_docs/exhibits/animal-identification/animal-id-requirements.pdf
- All applicable 4-H animal leases due
- DNA submissions due for all applicable Indiana State Fair-bound animals
- Equine health forms due prior to any equine being on the premises

Further animal exhibition details are available at: <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/exhibits/animal-identification>

Monday, June 1

Martin County 4-H FairEntry Opens & Information

FairEntry opens at: [FairEntry.com](https://fairentry.com)

All 4-H exhibits (both regular 4-H and Mini 4-H) for the Martin County 4-H Fair must be entered on FairEntry.com.

Fair Entry window:

June 1 through June 20th *Required to submit all 4-H project exhibit information by the deadline to participate in the 4-H fair.

Saturday, June 20

9:00 am

4-H County Tractor Contest – All Disciplines

- All 4-H project drop/add on v2.4honline.com must be complete (FairEntry will not allow entries if 4-H member is not signed up for the project on 4honline & must be synced prior to FairEntry exhibit entry – contact Purdue Extension with questions)
- Last Day to enter fair project and exhibit details on FairEntry
- Livestock Quality Assurance (in-person class) training certificates or YQCA (online option) certificates for 4-H cattle, swine, sheep, goat, rabbit & poultry 4-H exhibitors provided to heldd@purdue.edu or hardcopy to Extension Office
- Health forms for canines, equines, felines & poultry due (or prior if on premise) provided to heldd@purdue.edu or hardcopy to Extension Office
- All livestock purebred animal registration papers provided to heldd@purdue.edu or hardcopy to Extension Office

Saturday, June 27

1:00 pm

4-H Cat Show, Community Building

4:00 pm

4-H Dog Show, Community Building

Monday, June 29

6:00 pm

Set up Option 1 of 2 outside at 4-H Fairgrounds for all 4-Hers, Leaders & Volunteers – check in & out by the garage door of The Community Building east side door. Any other times only as pre-arranged with the 4-H Educator.

Tuesday, June 30 **6:00 pm**

4-H Fashion Revue Judging Loogootee Methodist Church, 208 West Main Street, Loogootee

Sunday, July 5 **2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Static 4-H Exhibit Check-In (**all** 4-H & Mini 4-H Static Projects Open Judging at the Community Building)

Monday, July 6 **6:00 pm**

Set up Option 2 of 2 outside at 4-H Fairgrounds for all 4-Hers, Leaders & Volunteers – check in & out by the garage door of The Community Building east side door. Any other times only as pre-arranged with the 4-H Educator.

Tuesday, July 7 **6:00 pm – 7:30 pm** All Open Class Exhibits Check-In

Wednesday, July 8

8 am – 7:00 pm 4-H Beef, Dairy, Goat, Sheep & Swine arrival

4 pm – 6 pm 4-H Rabbit & Poultry Check-in – ONLY DURING THIS TIME

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm 4-H Beef, Dairy, Goat, Sheep, & Swine animal check-in / weigh-in

All animal to have tags applied prior to unloading

8:30 pm 4-H Livestock Blue Original Auction Declaration Cards are due to The
Extension Office

Thursday, July 9

4:00 pm 4-H Rabbit Show

5:00 pm 4-H Static Exhibits on Display: Community Building Opens

6:30 pm Queen Contest, 4-H Fashion Revue & Mini Sewing Modeling

Friday, July 10

5:00 pm Community Building Opens

6:30 pm 4-H Beef & Dairy Cattle Show

Saturday, July 11

9:00 am 4-H Poultry Show

9:00 am Community Building Opens

5:00 pm 4-H Sheep & Goat Show

7:00 pm 4-H Horse & Pony Show Day 1 of 2 – Speed Classes *All Day 1 class results will be awarded 15 minutes after the conclusion Day 1 Show

Sunday, July 12

1:00 pm Community Building Opens

4:00 pm 4-H Horse & Pony Show Day 2 of 2

Monday, July 13

5:00 pm Community Building Opens

5:00 pm 4-H Swine Show

Tuesday, July 14

8:00 am – 10:00 am Rabbits and poultry NOT in auction released *All other animals are released after auction; those removed early are subject to premium deduction

5:00 pm Community Building Opens

5:00 pm 4-H Supreme Showmanship

5:15 pm - 7:15 pm 4-H Static exhibits released & 4-H gratitude station open

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm 4-H Static exhibits elevated to state check in option 1 at the Community Learning Center East double doors

7:00 pm Ten year and Last Year 4-H Member Recognition at the Livestock Arena

7:15 pm 4-H Premium Livestock Auction

Wednesday, July 15 **6:00 pm**

4-H Fairgrounds Community Good Clean up *All 4-H members & 4-H volunteers/leaders Community Good clean-up is in addition to individual clean-up of stalls/pens. Any other times only as pre-arranged with the 4-H Educator.

Friday, July 17

4-H Member point sheets are due.

TBA **PARTY FOR 4-Hers and Friends!**

Join in on the Martin County 4-H Program Year & Fair Celebration!

Monday, July 20-Monday, July 27 **8:30 am – 3:00 pm**

ISF exhibit check in option 2: All Static 4-H exhibits (except foods, garden, & herb projects) for the Indiana State Fair are to be provided to the Extension Office or PRIOR as individually pre-scheduled by calling 812-295-2412 or texting 812-653-2089. All special accommodation requests to be made no later than July 27th. ***Large, delicate, or heavy items will be the responsibility of the 4-H member to transport and check in at the Indiana State Fair, please discuss with 4-H Educator details and to get entry cards. Would you like to check-in your own exhibit at the Indiana State Fair? This is a great experience. Discuss with the 4-H Educator so that State Fair entry cards and logistical details may be provided to you!

Monday, August 10 **8:15 am - 9:00 am**

Baked food, preserved food, herb, garden, garden collection, garden education exhibits for the Indiana State Fair are to be provided to the Extension Office or PRIOR as individually scheduled by calling 812-295-2412 or texting 812-653 2089.

August 7 - 23

Indiana State Fair, closed each Monday

Friday & Saturday, August 14 & 15

Martin County Tractor Pull

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 – Monday, August 31 **8:30 am – 3:30 pm**

Indiana State Fair static exhibit pick up from the **Purdue Extension Martin County Office** or as individually scheduling by calling 812-295-2412 or texting 812-653-2089.

Mark your calendar now for the 2027 Martin County 4-H Fair!
Thursday, July 15 - Tuesday, July 20, 2027

2026 4-H ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION UPDATES

Cat, Dog, Ferret, Horse & Pony vaccination forms have been updated and are available from the Extension Office or online at the [Animal ID page](#).

The 4-H Animal Lease Form has no changes for 2026 and is available from the Extension Office or online at <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/docs/projects/animal-lease-agreement.pdf>

As a reminder, the only animals eligible to be formally leased in Indiana 4-H are:

- Dairy females
- Horse & Pony
- Llama & Alpaca

NEW – Indiana State Fair Species Offerings. Two new species offerings will be available at the Indiana State Fair:

- Sheep – Wether Dams: Females bred to produce more market-appearing sheep
- Goats – Myotonics

As a reminder, 4-H Animal Identification Days are required (with the exception of 2020) and are to be held in all counties for the following species:

Cattle

- Beef & Dairy Market Steers
- Beef Market Heifers
- Beef Crossbred Heifers
- Dairy Feeder Calves

Sheep

- Market Lambs (wethers and ewes intended to show as market lambs)
- Wether Dams
- Commercial Ewes needing an RFID tag and/or county tag
 - If animals do not have a scrapies tag, they should attend an ID Day.
 - Please refer to the Indiana 4-H Animal Identification Chart for appropriate language.

Goat

- Market Goat Wethers
- Market Goat Does (Wether Dams)
- Dairy Goat Wethers

Any female goat without a scrapies tag should attend an ID Day. Please refer to the Indiana 4-H Animal Identification Chart for appropriate language.

WONDERS OF THE WABASH 4-H PROGRAM

Explore the Wonders of the Wabash! From water quality and wildlife habitats to history, wetlands, and photography—this Indiana 4-H SPARK Club lets you dive deep into the river that shaped our state. This is a hybrid program with both virtual in-depth sessions and hands-on adventures, ending with a canoe trip down Sugar Creek!

Open to 4-H'ers grades 3-12, this program comes with lots of knowledge, cool swag, and the chance to explore Indiana's largest river! Participate in some or all 8 of the sessions, it's your adventure!

Who: All 4-H age youth grades 3-12.

Cost: \$45 participant.

Where: Each month will include a Wednesday education session via zoom and a Saturday in person adventure at varying locations. Additionally, participants will receive supplies at each session for hands on activities and future adventures!

Register at: <https://wondersofthewabash.4honline.com>

2026 Virtual Sessions

Time: 7:00-8:30 pm Est

Wednesday, February 25

Wednesday March 25

Wednesday April 15

Wednesday May 20

2026 In Person Sessions

Time: 10 am to 3 pm Est

Saturday, February 28 @ George Rogers Clark Memorial: Vincennes

Saturday, March 28 @ Merom Bluff: Sullivan County

Saturday, April 18 @ Wabashiki: Terre Haute

Saturday, May 23 @ Canoeing at Sugar Creek: Parke County

2026 STATE 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS EVENTS

Air Rifle & Air Pistol

Date: March 7, 2026

Location: Hancock County Fairgrounds, Greenfield, IN

Registration deadline: February 28, 2026

Archery

Date: March 28, 2026

Location: Sunman Fish & Game Club, Sunman, IN

Registration deadline: March 15, 2026

Rifle, Pistol & Muzzleloader

Date: April 18, 2026

Location: Riley Conservation Club, Riley, IN

Registration deadline: April 11, 2026

Shotgun

Date: May 16, 2026

Location: Indiana Gun Club, Fortville, IN

Registration deadline: May 9, 2026

- Registration is required on 4honline (v2.4honline.com) under Events. Each youth must be an enrolled 4-H member.
- Team & Individual Entry options
- Ammo for shoots provided
- Minimum of 5 participants for each event to compete
- Check in from 8:30 am to 9 am
- Costs will be \$50 contestant with Shotgun being \$70 per contestant
- Participants should bring own equipment, lawn chairs, sunscreen, and snacks

INFORMATION FROM THE INDIANA STATE POULTRY ASSOCIATION

Registration is open for the 2026 ISPA NPIP Blood Testing Schools. Participants will learn how to recognize Pullorum-Typhoid disease through a plate test. The school will also provide an introduction to biosecurity, methods to prevent poultry disease, and tips for maintaining a healthy flock. Upon completion of the school, participants will become Indiana Certified Blood Testers and will be authorized to perform PT testing in Indiana. Two dates for the school are available:

- SOUTHERN INDIANA BLOOD TESTING SCHOOL - Thursday, March 26, 2026
KlubHaus61: 2031 Newton Street, Jasper, IN 47546
- NORTHERN INDIANA BLOOD TESTING SCHOOL - Saturday, April 18, 2026
Purdue University, Creighton Hall: 270 South Russell Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907

Register for an ISPA NPIP Blood Testing School at: www.INpoultry.com/classroombts.

POULTRY INFORMATION BOOKLETS

The 2026 edition of the Poultry Information Booklets are available at The Martin County Purdue Extension Office. A Spanish version of the Poultry Information Booklet is also available. The digital versions are available at the ISPA website at: <https://www.inpoultry.com/poultrysuperintendentresources>.

BLOOD TESTER RECERTIFICATION

Indiana Certified Blood Tester status is valid for three years upon completion of a blood testing school. Those seeking to renew their Indiana Certified Blood Tester status can do so at: <https://www.inpoultry.com/bloodtesterrecertification>. The online school consists of review modules followed by an exam. The cost of the school is \$25 and offers an online payment option. A new blood tester ID card will be mailed once the exam is passed and the registration fee is paid.

PULLORUM-TYPHOID (PT) TESTING REQUIREMENT

As a reminder, the Indiana PT Testing requirement is that **ALL POULTRY** shown at a County Fair, the State Fair, or at an Exhibition event must have *originated directly from a National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Pullorum-Typhoid certified clean flock within one (1) year* or have had a *negative PT Test within ninety (90) days prior to the date of the event*.

FREE MATERIALS

The ISPA offers a variety of free poultry educational materials at: <https://www.inpoultry.com/freepoultrymaterials>. There is content suitable for all ages – from activity booklets to scientific research publications. Fun giveaway items such as turkey rulers, biosecurity bookmarks, recipe cards, and more are available! If you are interested, just fill out the form on the webpage with information about your event and the type of material you would like to request.

Questions for the ISPA may be directed to ispa@purdue.edu or (765) 494-8029.

SOUTHERN INDIANA 4-H CAMP CAMPER APPLICATIONS SAVE THE DATES!

All 4-H Members grades 3-8th are invited and encouraged to be part of the Southern Indiana 4-H Camp!

Applications open: April 1, 2026 on 4honline

Camp Dates: Friday, May 29-31, 2026

Camp Location: Country Lake Christian Retreat

MARTIN COUNTY 4-H JR. LEADER MEMBERS: UPCOMING DATES

All youth 7-12 grade are invited to be part of the Jr. Leaders 4-H Club!

Sunday, February 15, 2026: Meeting, 7:00PM

Saturday, March 14, 2026: Martin County Ag Day 2026

7AM Jr. Leaders Arrive at Community Building

7 – 11AM serve breakfast & help

11 – 12:30 Clean up

Friday, March 27-Sunday, March 29, 2026: For those registered, Indiana 4-H Teen Leadership Weekend

Sunday, April 12, 2026: Easter Egg Hunt

12:30PM Jr. Leaders Arrive at the Fairgrounds
2PM Egg Hunt starts
Meeting follows hunt, be done by 4PM **Bring 2 dozen candy filled eggs**

Sunday, May 3, 2026: Meeting, 7:00PM

Sunday, May 31, Day Camp Set Up

Monday, June 1 & Tuesday, June 2, Martin County 4-H Jr. Leaders Day Camp for Kindergarten to 4th graders

MARTIN COUNTY 4-H HORSE AND PONY CLUB

All 4-H members, mini to 12th grade, are invited to join this 4-H Club which focuses on activities and learning surrounding the interest of our four-legged equine friends!

Upcoming dates are:

Sunday, February 15, 5-7 pm

Sunday, March 15, 5-7 pm

Sunday, April 19, 5-7 pm

These meetings will be in the conference room/ no horses at Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center in the Community Learning Center, Conference Room, 2666 US Hwy 50, Loogootee, IN.

Additional meetings with riding practices for those who have horses are set to begin in May, more details to be determined.

UPDATED DATE On Sunday, May 17 from 9 am-4 pm, the 4-H Horse and Pony Club will host a free Martin County 4-H member riding clinic. Watch for further details and be sure your 4-H enrollment is submitted to participate!

4-H VOLUNTEER TRAININGS: VIRTUAL CLOVER CAFÉ

All volunteers are encouraged to attend the Clover Café trainings

Dates: all Wednesdays in February.

February 11: Communication That Clicks

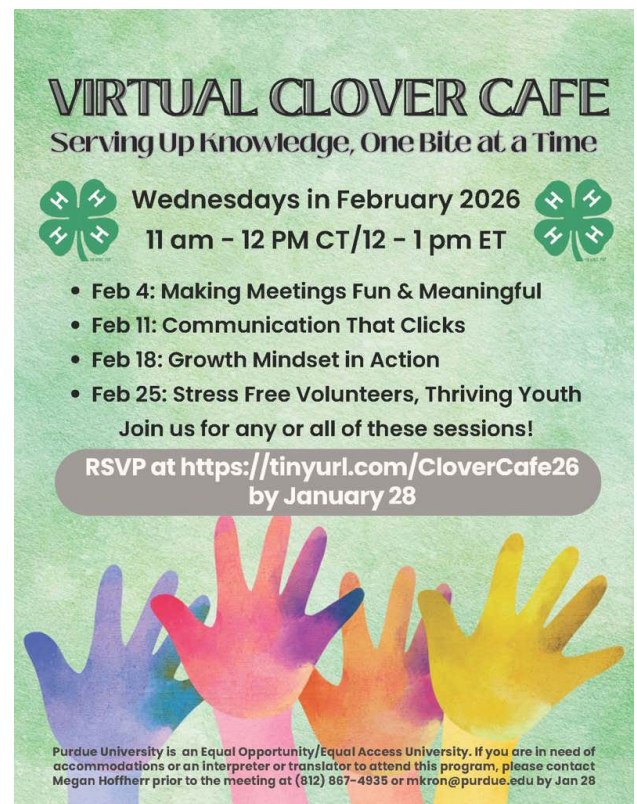
February 18: Growth Mindset in Action

February 25: Stress Free Volunteers, Thriving Youth

Time: 12 pm – 1 pm Est

Join us for one, some or all sessions! Register at:

<https://tinyurl.com/CloverCafe26>

A green poster for the Virtual Clover Café. At the top, it says "VIRTUAL CLOVER CAFÉ" in large, bold, black letters, followed by "Serving Up Knowledge, One Bite at a Time" in a smaller font. Below this, there are two green clover icons flanking the text "Wednesdays in February 2026" and "11 am – 12 PM CT/12 – 1 pm ET". A bulleted list of four sessions is provided: Feb 4: Making Meetings Fun & Meaningful, Feb 11: Communication That Clicks, Feb 18: Growth Mindset in Action, and Feb 25: Stress Free Volunteers, Thriving Youth. Below the list, it says "Join us for any or all of these sessions!". A dark grey rounded rectangle contains the text "RSVP at https://tinyurl.com/CloverCafe26 by January 28". At the bottom, there are several colorful handprints in shades of blue, purple, pink, orange, and yellow. A small disclaimer at the very bottom states: "Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. If you are in need of accommodations or an interpreter or translator to attend this program, please contact Megan Hoffherr prior to the meeting at (812) 867-4935 or mkron@purdue.edu by Jan 28".

VIRTUAL CLOVER CAFÉ
Serving Up Knowledge, One Bite at a Time

Wednesdays in February 2026
11 am – 12 PM CT/12 – 1 pm ET

- Feb 4: Making Meetings Fun & Meaningful
- Feb 11: Communication That Clicks
- Feb 18: Growth Mindset in Action
- Feb 25: Stress Free Volunteers, Thriving Youth

Join us for any or all of these sessions!

RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/CloverCafe26>
by January 28

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. If you are in need of accommodations or an interpreter or translator to attend this program, please contact Megan Hoffherr prior to the meeting at (812) 867-4935 or mkron@purdue.edu by Jan 28

MARTIN COUNTY 4-H RABBIT PROJECT WORKSHOP

Dates:

Session 1: Saturday, May 9, 2026

Session 2: Saturday, June 13, 2026

Location:

Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center
2666 US Hwy 50, Loogootee, IN 47553

Who Should Attend:

4-H members in Kindergarten–12th Grade, along with parents and adult mentors participating with their 4-Hers

More details will be announced soon!

Are you planning to show a rabbit for the first time, working on an animal science poster about rabbits, or already a seasoned 4-H rabbit exhibitor? Then this workshop series is for you!

The 4-H Rabbit Superintendent is excited to support your learning, fun, and overall experience in the 4-H Rabbit Project. Participants will gain hands-on knowledge, project guidance, and tips to help them succeed throughout the 4-H year.

Don't miss rabbit tattooing on May 7, and be sure to mark your calendars for both sessions of the 4-H Rabbit Project Workshop!

Questions?

Contact 4-H Rabbit Superintendent Sarha Jones
812-504-0219 | sarhajones92@gmail.com

Or Extension Educator Dena Held
812-295-2412 | heldd@purdue.edu

CALLING YOUTH TO GO ON TRIPS FOR SUMMER OF 2026: SIMPLE TRIP FORM DUE FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH, 2026!

To save your spot, (spots are limited for the bus for Round Up & Academy) please complete and return the simple commitment form and make a \$50 copay (cash or check) made payable to Martin County 4-H Club Council, Inc no later than March 27, 2026.

Additional registration steps will be completed on 4honline later. Registration fees minus the \$50 copay & bus fees for Academy & Round-Up will be paid for by Martin County 4-H.

Call 812-295-2412 or text 812-653-2089 or email heldd@purdue.edu or jone2589@purdue.edu with questions. The form is available in office or online at:

https://extension.purdue.edu/news/county/martin/2026/12/_docs/calling-youth-to-go-on-trips-for-summer-of-2026-final-updated-12-22-25.pdf

2026 Highlighted 4-H Summer Trips

Southern Indiana 4-H Overnight Camp, May 29 – May 31
Grades 3-8

4-H Academy, June 10-12
Grades: 9-12

4-H Band, TBA – June 2026
Grades: 9-12

4-H Chorus, TBA – June 2026
Grades 9-12

4-H Round Up, June 10-12
Grades: 7-9

MARTIN COUNTY AG DAY SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2026 - COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY
Calling all 4-H Members to help during Ag Day! Would you like to help at Martin County Ag Day? All enrolled 4-H members, 3-12 graders, help is needed! Please call 812-295-2412 to sign up by March 12th and report to the Community Building.

CELEBRATE MARTIN COUNTY AG DAY MARCH 14, 2026

WHERE: Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center, Community Building, 2666 US Hwy 50, Loogootee, IN
TIME: 8:00 am to 11:00 am EST

Door prizes – Petting Farm – Vendor's – Celebrate Ag – Breakfast Tickets

Why celebrate Ag Day? Because all Americans need to understand the value of agriculture in their daily lives. Here are just some of the key reasons why it's important to recognize and celebrate Ag Day each year!

- Increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows individuals to make informed personal choices about diet & health
- Informed citizens will be able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad.
- Employment opportunities exist across the board in agriculture.

GETTING TO KNOW DEMENTIA LUNCH TIME PROGRAM

Join the Rural Dementia Network for a six session "Getting to know Dementia" series starting March 4, 2025, and running for 6 consecutive Wednesdays, with the final session on April 8, 2026.

This series is designed to help families, caregivers, organizations, and community members build confidence, understanding and practical skills for supporting individuals living with dementia by offering Teepa Snow foundational content in convenient, bite-sized pieces.

Each session focuses on a different aspect of brain health, communication, behavior changes, caregiving strategies, and the emotional journey that comes with dementia. Attend one, some or all sessions, whatever fits your schedule!

Dates:

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Times: 11 am – 1 pm

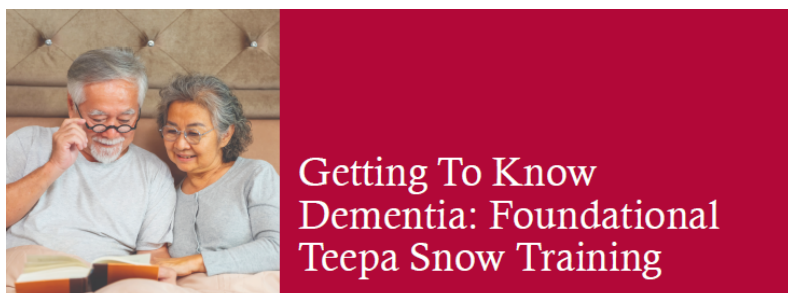
Cost: No cost

Lunch Provided

Registration: appreciated but not required, call 812.276.4270 or email dmatthews4@iuhealth.org

Location: Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center, Community Learning Center

Open to anyone wanting to learn more about dementia, care partnering and healthy aging.



Presented by the Rural Dementia Network

This series is designed to help families, caregivers, organizations and community members build confidence, understanding and practical skills for supporting individuals living with dementia by offering Teepa Snow foundational content in convenient bite-sized pieces. Each session focuses on a different aspect of brain health, communication, behavior changes, caregiving strategies and the emotional journey that comes with dementia. Our goal is to make dementia education accessible and compassionate. Through simple language, real-life examples and interactive learning, participants will gain skills that immediately create safer, more supportive environments for those experiencing memory loss. Together, we can strengthen awareness, reduce stigma and build a dementia-friendly community—one conversation at a time.

Sessions are 11 am – 1 pm and open to anyone wanting to learn more about dementia, care partnering and healthy aging. Lunch is provided. Registration is very much appreciated. Call 812.276.4270 or email dmatthews4@iuhealth.org to reserve your spot.

- Located at Martin County Community Learning Center, Martin County 4-H Fairgrounds & Event Center, 2664 US Highway 50, Loogootee, IN 47553

March 4: What Is Dementia Really?

Designed to help develop a basic appreciation for what happens when a brain is changing due to some form of dementia vs. other factors, such as normal aging or a high-stress lifestyle.

March 11: Brain Changes and Shifts in Ability Are Noticed When Dementia Happens?

Designed to help understand what happens to various parts of the brain when someone is developing and living with dementia. We will recognize the importance of knowing what is lost or impaired and what is retained, along with an introduction of supportive responses.

March 18: Looking at the Progression and Seeing More Than Loss

Focus on appreciating the changes that are part of dementia. We will see what is changing and the value in what remains as the condition progresses. Introducing the concept of the GEMS states.

March 25: The GEMS State Model

Highlights ways in which the care partner's approach impacts the person living with dementia. By changing our approach, we can create positive relationships.

April 1: New Skills for Helping and Supporting

This session gives participants the opportunity to learn and practice skills to create positive relationships with persons living with dementia.

April 8: Being an Advocate and Building a Support Team

This session gives participants an understanding of the role and responsibilities of an advocate. It also allows exploration of where supports will be needed as the condition progresses and tasks of daily living are impacted.

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2026 INDIANA 4-H DOG VOLUNTEERS' WORKSHOP

4-H Dog Leaders, Trainers, Volunteers, Judges and anyone wishing to take on one of these roles are invited to this year's 4-H Dog Volunteers' Workshop! Registration will include a lunch, resource packet and a day of learning with fun. Sessions will include Training Service Dogs in 4-H, Canine First Aid, a Build your Own Agility Equipment workshop, new Showmanship Class plus a few returning topics. This is an opportunity to network with fellow dog

leaders, trainers and judges around the state, sharpen your own skills and bring back resources and tips to empower county 4-H programs.

Date: February 28, 2026

Location: Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex

Registration: on 4-H Online Events: <https://dogvol26.4honline.com>

Registration deadline: February 20, 2026.

Registration fee: \$15

Please indicate any dietary restrictions on your registration. If you need accommodations to participate, please contact copelanb@purdue.edu by February 13, 2026.



2026 MARTIN COUNTY 4-H T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Open to all to submit design, see full details at

<https://extension.purdue.edu/news/county/martin/2026/12/docs/4-h-t-shirt-design-contest.pdf>

The Martin County 4-H T-Shirt Design Contest, run by The Martin County 4-H Jr. Leaders with support from Martin County 4-H Purdue Extension Martin County, invites members to create the next official county 4-H shirt!

Who Can Enter: Both youth and adults in the community can participate! You may submit as an individual or as a team!

Submit designs to the Purdue Extension Martin County office, heldd@purdue.edu and/or megan.hawkins@shoals.k12.in.us.

Submission deadline: EXTENDED TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

Theme/Focus: Designs should embody 4-H spirit, creativity, and connection to the program, with past themes involving a variety of activities such as camps, trips, projects and the 4-H Fair, and overall 4-H fun and excitement!

Prizes & Purpose: Winners receive recognition and prizes, and the winning design becomes the official shirt, with sales funding Jr. Leader 4-H activities.

The 2025 winner was Bo Hoffman. Will you be the 2026 winner?

2026 MARTIN COUNTY 4-H T-SHIRT DESIGN Contest



RULES

- All youth and adults may participate in the contest as individuals and/or as a team!
- Designs must be submitted to the Martin County Extension Office in person or by email to heldd@purdue.edu and/or megan.hawkins@shoals.k12.in.us by noon on Thursday, January 29, 2026.
- Designs should be submitted on shirt outline format using only one color of ink. The t-shirt contest design form will also be available on our website: <https://extension.purdue.edu/martin>.
- Plain t-shirt form size may be modified by the entrant.
- The 4-H Clover must follow proper clover usage guidelines that can be found at: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/fy-2019-4-h-name-emblem-use-guide-20191108.pdf>.
- Depending on the design and what the printers are capable of, the final design may be slightly modified to work on the shirt.
- The winner and runner ups will receive prizes to be determined at a later date. Judge's decisions are final.
- The winning design will be the official Martin County 4-H T-shirt for the 2025-2026 program. The design becomes property of Martin County 4-H. Martin County 4-H Junior Leaders hosts this design contest to showcase the talents in our community and sells the T-shirts to raise money to support Junior Leader activities.

(For teams, please list all individual information below as this is how all will be recognized.)

NAME(S):	AGE(S):
PARENT NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	

 **PURDUE UNIVERSITY** Extension - Martin County
2666 US Hwy 50, Loogootee, IN 47553 • 812-295-2432
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FARMERS MARKET SIGNATURE PROGRAM

Virtual training for farmers market managers and vendors program REGISTRATION is open now!

In these 2-hour sessions participants will learn how to navigate food safety regulations, understand legal issues of markets, improve market stability, offer food assistance programs, manage conflict, and more. Sessions will meet virtually via Zoom on Thursdays starting March 12 from 6:00-8:00 pm EST. The program will also feature homework and resources posted in Google Classroom.

Participants must attend 3 of the 4 sessions and complete all homework to receive the certificate. Registration is \$75 and includes a market manager or market vendor manual, selected during registration.

Questions can be directed to Sarah Hanson at sspeedy@purdue.edu

Registration link: https://extension.purdue.edu/anr/_teams/dffs/programs/farmers_market.html Join in for a free

SHOWPIG CONFERENCE

Join in for a virtual showpig conference on February 28th for show pig families, and the show pig community.

How it works: The live conference is all free! Individuals sign up for their free ticket, at www.showpigconference.com The conference will feature over twenty speakers (10 hours of content) who are excited to help youth and their families learn and succeed.

Attendees will be able to listen to mainstage speakers, breakout group sessions, enter virtual expo booths, and ask show pig experts the questions that they have always wanted answered.

In addition to all of the feeding and showmanship sessions, this year the Indiana Pork Farmers is sponsoring and providing some really good content about future agricultural job opportunities. The Swientists will be providing biosecurity buckets for all attendees.

Questions may be directed to Ryan Kline at showpigconference.com / 330-317-4104.